

**California Department of Conservation
Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program**

2002 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Sonoma

FIELD MAPPER(S): Kerri Kisko

IMAGERY:

source: NASA-Ames

date: Aug. 8, 2003

scale: 1 : 130,000

type: CIR Transparencies

coverage gaps: none

additional imagery: Feb. 2002 Air Photo USA (2 ft. resolution) in eastern part

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES: *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 2000 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made or related GIS data referenced while conducting the 2002 update.*

➤ *local review comments*

cities: City of Rohnert Park, Planning and Community Development and
City of Santa Rosa, Department of Community Development

county:

others:

➤ *personal contacts:*

Sonoma County Department of Transportation and Public Works, Airport Division
(707)-565-7243

➤ *websites:*

City of Santa Rosa: <http://ci.santa-rosa.ca.us>

County of Sonoma: www.sonoma-county.org

Gravel Strip Mining Along Russian River:

<http://us.f1.yahoofs.com/users/375e25bd/bc/Gravel+Strip+Mining+Along+Russian+River>

Sonoma Developmental Center: www.dds.cahwnet.gov

The Sea Ranch Village: www.888searanch.com

➤ *GIS data referenced:*

Sonoma Digital Soil Survey: ca097_Sonoma_County

SWIS landfill/waste facility reference file: SWIS.dgn

2000-2002 CHANGES*: *Please summarize the most common changes to the maps. List*

representative locations (quads) of each type of change encountered. Make sure to list and describe particularly large, unusual or notable changes and give estimates of the acreage involved.

Note: Using improved digital resources, more accurate boundaries were drawn throughout the county. Therefore, adjustments were made in all categories throughout the county. The changes listed below are only representative of the total number of actual changes.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land**

There were 16 conversions of irrigated farmland to urban land this update. These conversions were relatively small (less than 30 acres each) and scattered throughout the county. Some changes of note include the new Vintana 2 homes (≈20 acres) and the new Vintage Oaks Park and homes (≈25 acres) in the Community of Windsor and some new homes (≈15 acres) in the City of Sonoma.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Urban Land**

There were 118 conversions of local, grazing, or other land to urban land this update. The majority of these changes took place around the fringes of the cities along the Highway 101 corridor. In the City of Cloverdale the Vintage Meadows (≈20 acres) housing development was added and more homes (≈40 acres) were added at the Rancho de Amigos development. In the Community of Windsor a new driving track was added at the Santa Rosa Junior College Public Safety Training Center (≈10 acres) and a new building (≈15 acres) was erected at the southeast corner of the Windsor Golf Course. In the City of Santa Rosa new homes (≈110 acres) were added at the Fountaingrove development and the Kawana Springs (≈15 acres) and Harvest (≈15 acres) housing developments were added. In the City of Rohnert Park new parking lots (≈20 acres) and buildings (≈15 acres) were added at Sonoma State University. In the City of Petaluma a new driving range was added at the Petaluma Golf Center (≈25 acres).

Throughout the rest of the county, the development was scattered among the other cities and towns. In the Community of Guerneville some homes (≈20 acres) were added and more homes (≈15 acres) were added in the town of Rolands. Some new homes (≈10 acres) were added in the Community of Forestville. In the City of Sonoma the Remembrance (≈10 acres) housing development was added and the Broadway Business Park (≈45 acres) was noted.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Local or Grazing Land**

This update, there were 30 conversions of prime, statewide, or unique farmland to local or grazing land. The majority (26) of these changes were due to irrigated farmland being fallow for three update cycles. These conversions were scattered throughout the county. Large conversions of 50 acres or more occurred on the Cloverdale (1), Two Rock (3), Sonoma (1), and Petaluma River (2) quads. The remaining four changes were due to irrigated pasture on lesser quality soils (Unique Farmland). Irrigated pasture is considered farmland of local importance when it occurs on lesser quality soils. These conversions

were also scattered throughout the county.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land**

There were 64 conversions of irrigated farmland to other land this update. The majority (40) of these changes were due to the identification of low-density housing (ranchettes). These conversions were scattered throughout the county and most were small in size (≈10-35 acres). Other conversions were due to irrigation ponds, equestrian centers, riparian areas, and gravel mining activities.

➤ **Local, Grazing or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland**

There were 248 conversions of local, grazing, or other land to irrigated farmland this update. These conversions were scattered throughout the county and most were approximately 10–20 acres in size. The majority of the conversions were due to the addition of small vineyards in the hills and irrigated pasture in the southwestern portion of the county. The largest conversions of 100 acres or more occurred on the Annapolis (1), Cotati (4), Glen Ellen (1), Sonoma (1), Petaluma River (1), and Sears Point (2) quads.

➤ **UNUSUAL:** *Category changes, complications with the Farmland of Local Importance definition, or any other special circumstances in 2002.*

Local or Grazing to Other Land: This update, due to the use of 2-foot resolution imagery, a large amount of low-density housing (ranchettes) was identified. The majority of these conversions were not new. Some portions of the county had never had complete air photo coverage prior to this update. Along with the ranchettes, conversions were also made due to mining and geothermal activities, identification of small water bodies, rural commercial, equestrian centers, and confined livestock.

PROBLEM AREAS: *What locations and map categories need careful checking in 2004? Why?*

This county is particularly mixed. There are a lot of small parcels of agriculture mixed with urban and ranchettes. The area to the west of Santa Rosa encompassing the Healdsburg, Guerneville, Sebastopol, and Camp Meeker quads is especially busy.

LABOR ESTIMATE: *Please estimate the amount of time spent on the following tasks.*

photo interpretation, start date: March 4, 2004

photo interpretation, number of days: 9

ground truthing dates: March 16-19, 2004

days for map compilation and clean up: 26

* **Note:** **Irrigated Farmland** = Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance or Unique Farmland; **Local** = Farmland of Local Importance

Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:

www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp